

Message

From: Madigan, Andrea [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=742F637A10814B3EA10A0B76811AD7F5-MADIGAN, ANDREA]
Sent: 6/14/2017 10:16:11 PM
To: Urdiales, Aaron [Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Will do.

Andrea Madigan
CERCLA Supervisory Attorney
US EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202
303 312-6904
madigan.andrea@epa.gov

From: Urdiales, Aaron
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:13 PM
To: Madigan, Andrea <Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Andrea,

Please see the email request below (#2) that Betsy received today regarding Pioneer Natural Resources. I'm having trouble logging into our site assignment list for enforcement specialist and attorneys from up here to identify the team on this site (excel is not working). Could you please work with the team to send Betsy a write-up explaining the current situation at Pioneer. Thanks –

Your photos were great, looked like an amazing trip.

Aaron Urdiales, Director
RCRA/CERCLA Technical Enforcement
EPA Region 8, 8ENF-RC
Phone: 303-312-6844
Fax: 303-312-6953

From: Smidinger, Betsy
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 12:00 PM
To: Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Here is the message we just discussed ...Kell is interested in background information on #2 below. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Betsy Smidinger
ARA, Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Region 8, US EPA
Denver, CO
(303) 312-6231 (o)
(303) 335-7627 (c)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Smidinger, Betsy" <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>
Date: June 9, 2017 at 1:36:28 PM MDT
To: "Mutter, Andrew" <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>, "Mylott, Richard" <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>, "Vranka, Joe" <vranka.joe@epa.gov>, "Murray, Bill" <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>, "Stavnes, Sandra" <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>, "Wharton, Steve" <Wharton.Steve@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Hi All – I talked to Kell Kelly (SF Advisor to the Administrator) Thursday and he asked for information on 2 sites.

1. Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. based on the string of emails below. Do we have a fact sheet with the status of the site that I can send to Kell? I did find the bullets below a bit confusing. Do we have any additional info or a way to explain this for Kell? How long has this response been held up?
2. Kell also mentioned an inquiry about Pioneer Natural Resources in Creed, CO regarding mediation with EPA where the mediator was a federal judge. Pioneer was willing to settle for \$100K and EPA wanted \$8M. The mediator landed at \$4M. Does this inquiry ring a bell to anyone? Do we have more information I can send to Kell to explain this situation.

Thanks
Betsy

From: regionalpress
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Davis, Patrick <davis.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>
Cc: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Kel and Patrick,

John K asked that we get your view on this?

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 4:25 PM
To: regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>
Cc: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Still pending from last week...

From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Thursday, June 1, 2017 11:03 AM
To: regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>
Cc: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>
Subject: For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Chris Peterson with the Hungry Horse News has questions for Mike Cirian, EPA RPM for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Superfund site in Montana, regarding some claims made in a recent op-ed about a handful of wells on the site and why those wells were not included in the initial remedial investigation associated with the site (4th paragraph of linked op-ed).

Draft messages:

- The op-ed claims we avoided sampling wells due to known contamination. This is not inaccurate.
- Under the direction EPA, CFAC's investigation is ongoing and will develop comprehensive data and information to identify cleanup needs and inform remedies at the site. We have historical data for these wells and they have not shown that they are the highest contaminated wells.
- These specific wells were not sampled in phase 1, as the wells had the power disconnected and production equipment remains in them. It will take a crane and other equipment to remove the well pumps. These wells also pump at about 1000 gpm, which is not consistent with EPA sampling guidance.
- If sampling these wells becomes important to the ongoing remedial investigation, we will look to address these issues and potentially add the wells into phase 2 of our Remedial Investigation.